



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6660**

January Session, 2005

\*          HB06660JUD          041305          \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. Section 14-100a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

3       (a) No new passenger motor vehicle may be sold or registered in  
4 this state unless equipped with at least two sets of seat safety belts for  
5 the front and rear seats of the motor vehicle, which belts comply with  
6 the requirements of subsection (b) of this section. The anchorage unit  
7 at the attachment point shall be of such construction, design and  
8 strength as to support a loop load strength of not less than four  
9 thousand pounds for each belt.

10       (b) No seat safety belt may be sold for use in connection with the  
11 operation of a motor vehicle on any highway of this state unless it is so  
12 constructed and installed as to have a loop strength through the  
13 complete attachment of not less than four thousand pounds, and the  
14 buckle or closing device shall be of such construction and design that  
15 after it has received the aforesaid loop belt load it can be released with  
16 one hand with a pull of less than forty-five pounds.

17       (c) (1) The operator of and any front seat passenger in a motor  
18 vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating not exceeding ten thousand  
19 pounds or fire fighting apparatus originally equipped with seat safety

20 belts complying with the provisions of the Code of Federal  
21 Regulations, Title 49, Section 571.209, as amended from time to time,  
22 shall wear such seat safety belt while the vehicle is being operated on  
23 the highways of this state, except that a child [under the age of four  
24 years] six years of age and under shall be restrained as provided in  
25 subsection (d) of this section. Each operator of such vehicle shall secure  
26 or cause to be secured in a seat safety belt any passenger [four] seven  
27 years of age or older and under sixteen years of age.

28 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not  
29 apply to (A) any person whose physical disability or impairment  
30 would prevent restraint in such safety belt, provided such person  
31 obtains a written statement from a licensed physician containing  
32 reasons for such person's inability to wear such safety belt and  
33 including information concerning the nature and extent of such  
34 condition. Such person shall carry the statement on his or her person  
35 or in the motor vehicle at all times when it is being operated, or (B) an  
36 authorized emergency vehicle, other than fire fighting apparatus,  
37 responding to an emergency call or a motor vehicle operated by a rural  
38 letter carrier of the United States postal service while performing his or  
39 her official duties or by a person engaged in the delivery of  
40 newspapers.

41 (3) Failure to wear a seat safety belt shall not be considered as  
42 contributory negligence nor shall such failure be admissible evidence  
43 in any civil action.

44 (4) On and after February 1, 1986, any person who violates the  
45 provisions of this subsection shall have committed an infraction and  
46 shall be fined fifteen dollars. Points may not be assessed against the  
47 operator's license of any person convicted of such violation.

48 (d) (1) Any person who transports a child [under the age of four  
49 years,] six years of age and under or weighing less than [forty] sixty  
50 pounds, in a motor vehicle on the highways of this state shall provide  
51 and require the child to use a child restraint system approved pursuant

52 to regulations adopted by the Department of Motor Vehicles in  
53 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. Any person who  
54 transports a child [under the age of four years,] seven years of age or  
55 older and weighing [forty] sixty or more pounds, in a motor vehicle on  
56 the highways of this state shall either provide and require the child to  
57 use an approved child restraint system or require the child to use a  
58 seat safety belt. As used in this subsection, "motor vehicle" does not  
59 mean a bus having a tonnage rating of one ton or more. Failure to use a  
60 child restraint system shall not be considered as contributory  
61 negligence nor shall such failure be admissible evidence in any civil  
62 action.

63 (2) Any person who transports a child under one year of age or  
64 weighing less than twenty pounds in a motor vehicle on the highways  
65 of this state shall provide and require the child to ride rear-facing in a  
66 child restraint system approved pursuant to regulations that the  
67 Department of Motor Vehicles shall adopt in accordance with the  
68 provisions of chapter 54.

69 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
70 subsection, any person who transports a child four years of age or  
71 older in a student transportation vehicle, as defined in section 14-212,  
72 on the highways of this state shall provide and require the child to use  
73 a seat safety belt. Any person who transports a child under four years  
74 of age or weighing less than forty pounds in a student transportation  
75 vehicle on the highways of this state shall provide and require the  
76 child to use a child restraint system approved pursuant to regulations  
77 adopted by the Department of Motor Vehicles in accordance with the  
78 provisions of chapter 54.

79 (4) No person shall restrain a child in a booster seat unless the motor  
80 vehicle is equipped with a safety seat belt that includes a shoulder belt  
81 and otherwise meets the requirement of subsection (b) of this section.

82 (5) Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision (1), (2),  
83 (3) or (4) of this subsection shall, for a first violation, have committed

84 an infraction; for a second violation, be fined not more than one  
85 hundred ninety-nine dollars; and, for a third or subsequent violation,  
86 be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. The commissioner shall require  
87 any person who has committed a first or second violation of the  
88 provisions of this subsection to attend a child car seat safety course  
89 offered or approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The  
90 commissioner may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing,  
91 suspend for a period of not more than two months the motor vehicle  
92 operator's license of any person who fails to attend or successfully  
93 complete the course.

94 (e) The commissioner shall administer the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2005	14-100a(c)

**TRA**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**PD**        *Joint Favorable*

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable*